not to cause such embarrassing situations at their airports in future; and

(d) if so, whether the Air India management has cautioned its employees not to undertake excursions with families during the rush period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) A number of Air India employees and their families were stranded at Singapore airport in May, 1993. These employees were having free tickets, which were valid for travel on space available basis. Due to sudden demand at Singapore from fare paying passengers, these employees, who held free tickets could not be accommodated and had to stay at Singapore airport. The airport authorities advised Air India to ensure that such instances do not recur. This was reported in the newspapers also.

As a result of this incident, Air India has taken steps to close all flights to Singapore for travel by Staff prior to commencement of the peak season.

New air services

1380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start Air Services on Pune-Aurangabad-Nanded Bombay and Nasik-Pune-Bombay sector; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. Commercial and operational constraints at present do not permit operation of services on these routes.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of air-service to Nagaland

1381. SHRI VIZOL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that it takes two days to reach Nagaland by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that local air-service connecting Calcutta and Dimapur is available for four days in a week;

(d) whether such service is very irregular causing inconvenience to passengers;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to improve the Air Service on this sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines operates two flights a week between Calcutta-Dimapur on Tuesday and Thursday from 1.8.1993. Same day convenient connections have also been provided over Calcutta for passengers travelling from Delhi to Dimapur.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Due to crew constraints, the frequency of the thrice weekly Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur service was reduced to twice weekly, effective 1.8.1993.

Settlement of demands of Indian Airlines Pilot

1382. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister had assured the Indian Airlines Pilots in January, 1993 that their demands would be settled at the earliest and on this assurance their strike was called off on January 24th; and

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Commercial Pilots Association withdrew the strike unconditionally.

Involvement of Private Sector in Development of Airport

1383. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved an innovative scheme to associate the private sector in a big way in securing funds for the development and upgradation of existing airports and creation of new ones; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, the airports intended to be upgraded and the new ones proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of an airport at Cochin envisaged that the cost of the project could be financed mainly from contributions of Non-Resident Indians. The proposal was discussed with the Minister of Transport and officials of the Government of Kerala. It was decided that the State Government will work out the modalities of setting up of the proposed project with technical assistance of the National Airports Authority. A Society under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Kerala has been regisered for taking up the project.

A proposal for development of Calicut Airport was discussed with the Chief Minister and officials of the Government of Kerala. It was decided that development of the Calicut Airport to handle wide-bodied aircraft would be financed by mobilising the requisite resources from the public including Non-Resident Indians. The funds would be made available to the National Airport Authority as interest-free advance, to be repaid out of the earnings of the airport. The responsibility of providing the requisite funds would be undertaken by a Society to be set up by the State Government.

Termination of services of Employees of Samrat Hotel

1384. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.T.D.C. management of Hotel Samrat, New Delhi has been violating laws relating to employment of workers;

(b) whether the hotel management has recently terminated the services of nearly 70 persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Hotel Samrat had employed 15 employees on a regular basis and 56 employees on contract basis, in the flight kitchen operation for the Indian Airlines. The management has closed the flight kitchen operation since 30-6-93, consequent to the termination of flight kitchen agreemnt between ITDC and Indian Airlines.

The management has retained services of 15 regular employees and asked contractual employees to give their consent to accept fresh appointment in other units. Management has offered appointments to 48 employees, the balance 8 could not be offered appointments as they have gone to the Court of Law.

Charter of demands of Indian Airlines employees

1385. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Charter of Demand of Indian Airlines